



# THE DOMINANT NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 2      AUGUST 2011



## MCM CREW DOMINANT ON DEPLOYMENT

July was an eventful and productive time for MCM Crew DOMINANT. The month started off with a Supply Department Limited Team Trainer (LTT) with Assessors from the Afloat Training Group (ATG) Pacific. Our Logistics and Culinary Specialists worked closely with the Assessors and earned high marks. On July 3<sup>rd</sup> we proceeded out to sea enroute to our first port visit, Jebel Ali in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). During the transit, we celebrated the Fourth of July with a Crew Served Weapons live fire event and an Ice Cream social that evening. The following afternoon we moored in Jebel Ali. Members of crew chose from a variety of USO sponsored events ranging from sight-seeing to golfing at some of Dubia's world famous golf courses. Our time in Jebel Ali was marked with good spirit and forged memories that will last a life time. Upon returning to Bahrain, we conducted a magnetic material offload in preparation for our Assessment and Identification of Mine Susceptibility (AIMS) signature measurement. The offload went smoothly and was completed a day after it started. We commenced our underway measurements on the 12<sup>th</sup> of July and completed them on the 13<sup>th</sup>. In true DOMINANT fashion we completed the assessment over a day early and validated that SCOUT is ready to execute Mine warfare tasking. Now halfway through July, SCOUT entered a two-week maintenance period marked with several additional events. The Continuous Maintenance Availability (CMAV) started on July 17<sup>th</sup> along with a Combat Systems, Command, Control, Communications and Computer Readiness Assessment (C5RA), a Special MNS Assessment and Repair Training Team (SMARTT) visit and a sonar groom from NSWC PCD. Our Sailors worked tirelessly throughout this two week period ensuring that all maintenance and material actions were completed on time. As July drew to an end, the Muslim holy month of Ramadan began. Our Sailors are respecting this special time for our host Nation by abiding by conservative off base dress attire and refraining from activities that are prohibited during this lunar month. Ramadan is expected to end on August 30<sup>th</sup> with the sighting of the new moon.



MNSN Murphy awaits orders to commence firing during a Crew Served Weapons training event as part of Crew DOMINANT's 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration.

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## CO's COMMENTS

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Greetings Crew DOMINANT family and friends! Welcome to another addition of the family newsletter. Since our last update, your loved ones have been hard at work representing the United States during a port visit to Jebel Ali, UAE and getting SCOUT through a short pier side maintenance period that included various engineering and combat systems upgrades.

In Jebel Ali, we had the opportunity to take a short bus ride to the nearby city of Dubai, home of the world's tallest building and some of the most elaborate shopping malls around. We also had the chance to take several MWR tours including visits to the local water parks, golfing at a couple PGA courses, and touring the local countryside.

We're still pushing through this pier side maintenance period with all hands lending efforts to putting the final touches on some upgrades and repairs. This update also finds us in the beginning of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. For most of the Bahrainis, this is a time of prayer and fasting from sun up to sun down which significantly affects local businesses and routine. Since we're guests here in Bahrain, this also means that we have to change some of our behavior for the month. Long pants are required when leaving the ship and there is no drinking or eating in public during the day. Most of the local restaurants are also closed now during the day and alcohol is not served anywhere off base for the remainder of the month. Combine this with the sweltering heat, and it's a good time to take care of business between the Naval Station and the ship and save a few dollars! These are some of the times that make you really appreciate the freedoms that we enjoy on a regular basis and are often taken for granted at home in the U.S.

In the near future, we'll be taking SCOUT back out to sea to shake down a few of the upgrades that we've received and get our sea legs back under us. I hope that all of you are enjoying the summer in San Diego and taking advantage of the excellent California weather. As always, please feel free to contact our outstanding command OMBUDSMAN with any issues, her phone number is (858) 232-5686.

Before I close, I'd like to welcome a couple new members of the crew: ENS Hugo Spinoza, our new First Lieutenant; ENS Mark Hansberry, our new Main Propulsion Officer; PS1(SW) Marc Adamson, MN1(SW) Jared Snyder; EM3(SW) Anthony Haynes; and MNSN Troy Johnson. Until next time, stay safe and enjoy the summer!



G. P. Lorio  
Commanding Officer

## XO's POST

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July was a month marked with multiple events that gave our Sailors the opportunity to experience new things and to shine. We celebrated the Fourth of July at sea with a Crew Served Weapons live fire training event. On July 5<sup>th</sup> we moored SCOUT in Jebel Ali, UAE. Many of the crew took tours in and around Dubai. Most were able to sight see and experience the best of what the United Arab Emirates has to offer. Our Sailors conducted themselves aptly while on liberty and were true ambassadors of the United States. Following our time in Dubai, we returned to Bahrain and began a two week maintenance period following the successful completion of AIMS. Our Sailors continued to improve the overall material condition of SCOUT with assistance from systems experts from various government entities and local contractors. We also found a few spare hours to have a MWR sponsored Bowling tournament

on base in which LTJG Carnecer defended the Officers' title with his first tournament win. Additionally of note, 23 of our Sailors received their Small Pox vaccination. July has now passed and August is now upon us. The following weeks will likely mark the apex of heat and humidity for 2011. We will enjoy it!



I would like to extend a warm welcome to PS1(SW) Adamson. He is a fine addition to Executive Department and the crew is already benefiting from his knowledge and expertise. Welcome aboard PS1!

Thank you for your continual support!

## SEL's BLOG

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No need to cry over spilled milk, no really, its okay. What really matters are our relationships with people and making things right. As the stress builds up from being on deployment (75 days so far), missing love ones or feeling overwhelmed by the daily summer camp programs and kids at home on summer break. Take the time to appreciate the small things in life. I remember during a busy hot sea and anchor detail, as I scanned the port of Bahrain from the fantail a small sea turtle surfaced to the top of the Arabian Gulf headed out to sea. One Sailor brought this small creature to my attention by stating "Hey Senior, there's a sea turtle!" Even though I didn't see it, I took the time to respect what had just happened and reflected on it.

Now a word, just thoughts of how precious and delicate a small turtle can be. If you or someone you know is feeling stressed or just needs to talk, Military One



Source is just a phone call away at 1-800-342-9647 or visit their website:

<http://www.militaryonesource.com>. Some of the services they provide are coping with stress, marital communications, parent-child communications, deployment/reunion and general family counseling services.

Enjoy your day, you deserve it!

## CHENG's PIT

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July proved to be another extremely busy month for DOMINANT's Engineering Department. While the first half of the month was spent operating at sea, we did enjoy a few days of rest and relaxation during a port visit to Jebel Ali. Most spent time visiting the city of Dubai and getting a chance to experience everything from the cities massive shopping malls to its thrill seeking water parks and astonishing architecture. The port visit was no doubt a morale boost for Sailors who were unable to celebrate Independence Day with their families this year.

After returning from the first port visit of the deployment, DOMINANT successfully completed a magnetic and acoustic signature assessment,

C5RA and maintenance availability. All three evolutions required a total team effort and were carried out in true engineering fashion. Despite the jam-packed schedule, many engineers have made significant head way this month pursuing their Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist (ESWS) Qualification and I look forward to reporting their completion in our next edition. A special recognition goes out to EN1 Munoz who re-enlisted for 6 years on July 7th. We value EN1's service daily and are lucky to have him onboard. EN2 Willis qualified Electrical Plant Operator

Welcome aboard EM3(SW) Haynes! EM3 comes to Crew DOMINANT from USS DUBUQUE and has already proven to be an

impact player in E-Division and Engineering department. His electrical repair efforts during DOMINANT's maintenance period helped ensure SCOUT's operational readiness heading into an arduous August schedule.

Farewell EN2 Willis! EN2's time with Crew DOMINANT has come to an end as he heads to Fort Sam Houston for a well deserved shore duty assignment as an instructor. We wish EN2 and his family all the best and thank them for their contributions to Crew DOMINANT over the past 2 years.

As always, "Thank you for your support, understanding, and the job you fill back home! We look forward to seeing you all soon!"

## OPS's STAND

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Our crew celebrated July 4th in style with a gun shoot and an ice cream social while transiting to the United Arab Emirates where we berthed in the world's largest man made port; Jubal Ali. During our three night stay our Sailors enjoyed exploring the expansive and actively developing mega-city of Dubai. Over the past decade Dubai has invested billions of dollars earned through oil revenue into expanding its show-case city into a world class destination. The results are often over the top displays of wealth: an aquarium with five types of sharks and other fish in the world's largest mall, attached to the world's largest building, the Burj Khalif. An indoor ski slope inside yet another overwhelming large mall, the world's only seven-star hotel, and more luxury cars

than you can count all made Dubai quite a site to see. While many of our guys enjoyed seeing the sites, perhaps the most satisfying part of our visit was the beer on the pier and free Wi-Fi we enjoyed next to the ship during the evenings.



Dubai viewed from the Burk Khalif

Upon returning to Bahrain SCOUT began a two week period in port for repairs. Its felt more like old times in San Diego than deployment as the Communications and Combat divisions worked hand in hand with civilian technicians to repair equipment while Deck

did a great job repainting and repairing the exterior of the ship.

With the arrival of the 9th new moon of the Islamic calendar on the 31st, we began our experience with the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. A Muslim-American visited our ship beforehand to teach us about the history and culture surrounding the event so we may understand why Muslims do not eat or drink during the day and why we also can not publicly eat, drink, or even wear shorts during the month so we don't offend anyone. This should not affect us too much as we have a very busy August schedule. This deployment continues to bring new experiences and challenges that we would never otherwise experience.

## SUPPO's BIN

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Supply Department began the month with a successful LTT. It was another example of great training that all of us cannot only use here onboard SCOUT, but also in the future at our follow-on commands. The S1 side has continued to provide solid part support through all endeavors including a CMAV and the C5RA.



The messdecks during a food and stores onload on July 30<sup>th</sup>.

We also have two members of Supply Department who are picking their orders for their next billets: CS2(SW) Gant and LS3(SW) Rosas. We wish them the luck in getting the orders they are applying to receive!

## RECOGNITION STAGE

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### AWARDEES

#### **Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal Recipients:**

MNC(SW/EXW) Stone, EN1 Munoz, IC1(SW) Simmons, QM2(SW) Bauer, MN2(SW) McReynolds, CS2 Nguyen, EN2 Willis, EN3 Hailey, LS3 Rosas, ENFN Oladapo, ENFN Chavez.

#### **Senior Sailor of the Quarter**



IC1(SW) Simmons

#### **Junior Sailor of the Quarter**



MN3(SW) Chickering

#### **Blue Jacket of the Quarter**



MNSN Trinidad

### WARFARE QUALIFICATIONS

**Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist:** QM2(SW) Bauer

### HAILS



ENS Spinoza



ENS Hansberry



PS1(SW) Adamson



MN1(SW) Snyder



EM3(SW) Haynes



MNSN Johnson

### FAREWELLS

EN2(SW) Willis, MN2 Schmidt, MN3 Johnston.

## MONTH IN PICTURES

